

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL TENURE & DISCIPLINE

In re: The Honorable Rafael A. Ovalles,
District Court Judge, Respondent

File No. 15-001

**NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION, NATURE OF CHARGES,
AND PUBLIC HEARING PURSUANT TO R.I.G.L. § 8-16-4(c)**

I. INTRODUCTION

You are hereby notified that the Commission on Judicial Tenure & Discipline (hereinafter "Commission") has conducted a preliminary investigation into charges that you have violated the canons of judicial ethics and that you have engaged in conduct bringing your judicial office into serious disrepute, in violation of *R.I.G.L. § 8-16-4(b)*. Having completed said preliminary investigation, the Commission has concluded that the charges are supported by substantial evidence.

Following is a statement regarding the nature of the charges as they currently stand. The Commission reserves the right to amend these charges:

II. BACKGROUND FACTS

1. Respondent is an associate judge of the District Court for the State of Rhode Island.
2. Respondent was appointed to the bench in 2005.
3. The Rhode Island Unified State Court System is comprised of six (6) separate and distinct courts: Supreme Court; Superior Court; Family Court; District Court; Workers' Compensation Court; and the Traffic Tribunal. Each court has its own jurisdiction, i.e., the authority to hear and decide a matter.

4. The different kinds of legal matters within the jurisdiction of the Rhode Island District Court are numerous and divergent in subject matter. Those matters include, but are not limited to, criminal matters; civil actions, exclusively, where the amount in controversy does not exceed \$5,000 and concurrently with the Superior Court, where the amount in controversy is over \$5,000, but does not exceed \$10,000; landlord tenant disputes; matters involving minimum housing standards; tax disputes and the appellate review of administrative agency decisions.
5. As a result of the District Court's expansive jurisdiction, on a daily basis, the Judges of the District Court handle matters involving a significant portion and variety of the citizenry of the State of Rhode Island.
6. Respondent's duties and responsibilities as a District Court judge include presiding over all matters that come before him.
7. In his capacity, as a District Court judge, Respondent has interactions with a wide variety of individuals, including the public, litigants, spectators, witnesses, lawyers and court personnel, on a daily basis. The District Court is typically the only contact citizens will have with the R.I. Court system.
8. The Commission on Judicial Tenure is charged with overseeing the conduct of the judiciary, investigating complaints of judicial misconduct and recommending disciplinary action to the R.I. Supreme Court.
9. The Commission on Judicial Tenure received two (2) complaints against Respondent alleging judicial misconduct of various forms. The complainants were a Deputy Court Clerk and an attorney. As part of its investigation into these complaints the

Commission became aware of other facts and circumstances concerning the Respondent's judicial conduct.

10. The Commission has determined that there is substantial evidence that some of the complained of activity, by the complainants, amounts to a violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

11. The preliminary investigation also revealed additional evidence that substantially supports a finding that Respondent violated the Code of Judicial Conduct.

III. CONDUCT WARRANTING A PUBLIC HEARING

A. SEXUAL HARASSMENT/UNFAIR TREATMENT OF FEMALES

12. There is substantial evidence that Respondent's actions towards a Deputy Court Clerk constituted sexual harassment in violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

Examples of such harassment against the Deputy Court Clerk include the following:

- a. The Deputy Court Clerk entered Respondent's chambers on two (2) different occasions to deliver a file only to find Respondent sitting in a chair with his pants unbuttoned, his zipper pulled down, pant flap folded to the side and with his hand in his underwear. Respondent made no attempt to cover up.
- b. On another occasion, Respondent told the Deputy Court Clerk that he had to keep his sexual comments to himself.

13. There is substantial evidence that Respondent's actions toward other female litigants, court personnel and the public amounted to sexual harassment in violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct. Examples include:

- a. After being offered to go ahead of a female attorney in line for a wake, Respondent commented to the attorney, who frequently appeared before him, that he was enjoying the view behind her.
 - b. Respondent inappropriately asked a court clerk, during regular work hours, if his shoes made him look sexy.
 - c. When a District Court clerk knocked on Respondent's chambers' door, the Judge told her she could come in and watch him "suck his lollipop."
 - d. A clerk knocked on the Judge's chamber's door in response to the Judge's request for help with his computer. When he called her into his chambers, she found him getting dressed.
 - e. Yet another clerk reported finding Respondent sitting behind his desk with his pants hanging up behind him in obvious view.
 - f. Female personnel were made to feel uncomfortable as a result of Respondent's actions and attitude towards them to a degree that made them avoid having to go into his chambers alone. Sheriffs and male clerks were often recruited to accompany female clerks into Respondent's chambers.
14. There is substantial evidence that Respondent's actions towards female litigants, court personnel and the public also amounted to sexual discrimination by treating women differently from their male counterparts in violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct. Overall allegations include improper comments, condescending actions and patronizing comments. Specific examples include:
- a. The Judge told a supervisory clerk about her job in a condescending manner – "I'm the man. Listen to me and we'll be fine."

- b. On another occasion, the Judge informed a clerk that “there is no woman that can teach me anything.”
- c. Respondent stated to one female attorney that he showed her the same amount of respect he gave any “female attorney.”

B. THE MENTAL HEALTH CALENDAR

- 15. District Court judges are assigned to sit on the Mental Health Calendar on a rotating basis. District Court judges appointed to the calendar are temporarily granted status as a Superior Court judge since jurisdiction actually lies in that court.
- 16. The Mental Health Calendar addresses two (2) types of cases – issues involving involuntary commitment and issues involving developmentally disabled individuals.
- 17. The involuntary civil commitment hearings include commitment decisions. An individual can be involuntarily committed for 10 days. If, at the 10-day mark, the doctor does not feel the patient should be released, a petition will be filed with the court identifying the reasons for continued commitment. The patient has the right by statute to a hearing. Commitment hearings therefore always involve the testimony of a physician.
- 18. After commitment, issues on the administration of medicines and treatment to be provided to involuntary committed individuals are also addressed on the Mental Health Calendar.
- 19. Issues involving the developmentally disabled also include decisions on medical care and treatment. Therefore, medical care hearings for the developmentally disabled also always involve a physician’s testimony.

20. Because of the medical and privacy issues addressed on the Mental Health Calendar, the confidential hearings are closed to the public, the calendar is not accessible to the public, and the files are sealed. In further consideration of privacy issues, the calendar is held at the Eleanor Slater or Butler Hospital facilities.

21. The Mental Health Calendar is held once a week, on Fridays.

22. A typical weekly calendar may have 25 – 40 matters requiring five (5) or more hearings. In a given year, 200-250 distinct individuals are represented.

23. In accordance with his responsibilities as a District Court judge, Respondent was assigned to participate on this calendar on a rotating basis.

24. Respondent has failed to respond appropriately, and in a timely fashion, to matters while presiding on the Mental Health Calendar.

Examples include:

- a. Respondent caused a delay in the case of a disabled patient with a distended bowel who needed an operation to resection the bowel. The attorneys noted that the patient's bowel was protruding through his stomach. The parties stipulated that the patient was not competent, was in pain and in need of an operation. The parties were also concerned about the possibility of infection. In light of the emergency nature, the parties had taken an audiotaped deposition of a physician to establish the physician's expert opinion. Respondent refused to accept the audiotape deposition testimony of the doctor because the oath was administered by the attorney for the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Development Disabilities and Hospitals ("BHDDH") in the emergency situation. Citing conflict of interest, Respondent rejected

the deposition testimony and denied the stipulation, delaying the necessary operation an additional four (4) days.

- b. Respondent conducted a hearing with respect to a 70-year old female patient who had spent her entire life institutionalized and became terminally ill. The group home where she resided contacted Hospice but Hospice would not come without a "DNR/DNI" Order (do not resuscitate). A petition and stipulation was filed before Respondent for the DNR. Respondent initially granted the petition. Respondent subsequently "resurrected" the case saying he was not comfortable with his decision and that he needed to meet with the patient. He said he would like to see her on the upcoming Saturday (the week before Christmas) between 2-4 p.m. at the group home. The group home made arrangements for all weekday staff to be present as well as the Director of the Agency. Two (2) attorneys involved in the matter were also present at the group home at 2:00 p.m. in anticipation of the Respondent's visit. Respondent never arrived at the group home although everyone waited until 5:30 p.m. Respondent visited the patient later that week, on his own, unannounced and sat with the patient praying by her bed. Subsequently, he kept his ruling intact and the woman received hospice services.
- c. Respondent also delayed providing relief in a case of another disabled patient who would not sign her application for benefits. Without the signed application, medical personnel could not get paid. A petition seeking to obtain her signature was filed and heard by Respondent. However, rather than order the patient to sign, the Respondent ruled that he would sign the

application on the patient's behalf. Respondent, however, subsequently refused to sign the application. There is a lengthy e-mail chain between the attorneys and Respondent about obtaining his signature. After a month of emails, Respondent informed the attorneys to have the new judge presiding on the calendar sign the application. This proved difficult for the subsequent Judge because not only was the initial order authorizing Respondent to sign the application still in effect, the order was unique and legally questionable. The delay by Respondent resulted in the delay of payment of necessary costs to the patient's doctors.

- d. Respondent entered an order in another disabled individual's case directing the patient's brother to come to court to state why the patient could not go home with him. The order violated the privacy and confidentiality of the private courtroom.
- e. When reviewing the care plan for a long term psychiatric patient with HIV at Eleanor Slater Hospital, Respondent raised questions about a psychiatrist's testimony. The psychiatrist testified in Court that he conferred with the patient's physician about the HIV medicines. Respondent excluded the testimony concerning the need and administration of the HIV drugs. After conferring with the doctor, the attorneys learned that the patient wasn't taking the HIV drugs so the attorney for BHDDH filed a Motion to Amend the Petition to remove the HIV drugs provision but proceed with the psychiatric treatment plan. Respondent denied the motion refusing to go forward on the petition and indicated he would revoke the order, giving the patient "nothing."

Ultimately, BHDDH and the Mental Health Advocate agreed to continue the status quo by keeping the HIV medicine on the petition but just not administering the medicine.

- f. The Mental Health Advocate has to remind Respondent prior to hearings that the family is not involved and specifically remind him not to ask or mention family members to patients.

C. ABUSIVE TREATMENT

25. There is substantial evidence that Respondent violated the Code of Judicial Conduct by his abusive treatment of various court personnel, litigants and the public.

Examples of such abusive conduct include the following:

- a. Respondent was abusive repeatedly towards a female public defender that regularly appeared before him. Incidents demonstrating the abusive treatment include:
 - i. Repeatedly berating and criticizing the public defender in open court.
 - ii. Interfering with the female public defender's ability to perform her job by instituting a rule, only applicable to this public defender, requiring the public defender to stay in the courtroom while he was on the bench and handling other matters. The prosecutors and private attorneys had no such restriction. This action prevented the public defender from meeting with clients and thus adequately preparing her cases.
 - iii. Confining the public defender to her seat so that she could not confer with clients in the courtroom while court was in session.

- iv. Reprimanding the public defender in open court for being incompetent and not being ready with dispositions that he had prevented her from preparing by limiting her movements.
 - b. Respondent publically mistreated and was abusive to the Deputy Court Clerk, who worked as Respondent's courtroom clerk from September of 2013 until July 28, 2014, on multiple occasions. Such abusive actions and mistreatment occurred in open court and included throwing files across the bench at her.
 - c. Respondent abused the public by inappropriately commenting on the appearance of litigants. Examples of inappropriate comments include:
 - i. Respondent asked an obviously pregnant litigant if she had eaten too much during the holiday or if she was pregnant.
 - ii. Respondent also inappropriately commented on the weight of a female litigant, remarking that it looked like she was "eating pretty well."
 - iii. The Judge also informed a young male litigant with a severe case of acne that he should spend time and money on his appearance.
26. Respondent also abused staff, litigants and the public by routinely and frequently leaving the bench on a whim. These absences occurred without notice and typically happened whenever Respondent became overwhelmed or upset with attorneys, litigants, court personnel or a particular case. Respondent's absence may or may not have been prefaced by an announcement that the Court would be taking a recess. The duration of these absences would vary depending on his mood, leaving litigants, personnel and the public sitting and wondering when Court would resume.

27. On one occasion the Respondent abruptly left the bench and had the sheriff clear the courtroom in order to rearrange the courtroom so that the courtroom would resemble Superior Court. The Respondent made everyone in the courtroom wait approximately 30 minutes while the furniture in the courtroom was rearranged.

D. FAILURE TO MAINTAIN PROFESSIONAL DIGNITY

28. Respondent's propensity to remove his pants in chambers, in addition to amounting to harassment, demonstrates a failure to maintain professional dignity.

29. In addition to the propensity to remove his pants during the day, Respondent took naps during the middle of the day on his desk.

30. On one occasion, when a clerk went to check on Respondent for a 2:00 trial, Respondent complained "guess I won't be getting my nap." It was 2:45 and the litigants had been waiting in the courtroom for almost an hour.

31. Respondent also displayed a lack of dignity by asking some court personnel to call him and wake him up for particular hearings.

32. Respondent's lack of truthfulness at certain times also displays a lack of judicial dignity and provides substantial evidence of a violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct. Examples include:

- a. In Respondent's Answer to the Complaint lodged by an attorney, Respondent denied that he asked a clerk to "investigate the attorney's or anyone else's criminal defense work." Respondent attached a decision he wrote regarding the attorney's representation of Mr. Arnold to the Answer. Within the decision, Respondent cited several examples of the cases in which the part-time solicitor entered as a private attorney for a criminal defendant being charged by the City of

Warwick. In support of the Arnold decision, Respondent had his clerk search the Court files for all cases in which the attorney was entered as a prosecutor. The detail of this information, within the decision, demonstrates that Respondent had investigated the attorney's defense work.

- b. Respondent was not truthful when an attorney attempted to put a sidebar conference on the record. The incident involved a DUI (driving under the influence of liquor or drugs) matter before Respondent where the parties had a plea and proposed disposition worked out with each other. When the attorneys approached the bench on a sidebar to present the plea deal to the Judge, the Judge asked "Can I do that?" "I don't think I can do that." When the attorney attempted to explain the agreement to the Judge, the Judge slammed the file shut, rolled his chair back and said "go to trial then and see what you get." Perplexed by the exchange and not wanting his client to suffer, the attorney attempted to put the sidebar exchange on the record. When the attorney relayed what the Court had said, the Judge interrupted him and on the record denied saying it.

E. Odd Actions Raising Concern Over Judicial Fitness

33. Respondent's sometimes odd and unusual actions demonstrate a lack of judicial fitness. Such activities include:
 - a. Respondent instructed a sheriff that he had to make eye contact with him at all times. Consequently, the sheriff stood facing the Judge for the entire day with his back to the individuals in the courtroom.
 - b. During a hearing at the Butler Hospital, while having a conference with attorneys in chambers, the Judge got up, wandered around and opened a door. Respondent

panicked telling the attorneys that he had checked the door earlier and it was locked. All proceedings were stopped for at least an hour while security checked out the area. Respondent had the sheriff stand guard of him during this time.

34. On another occasion, Respondent was presented with an appellate form to sign for a criminal defendant in a suspended license case. Signing appellate forms and setting reasonable bail are ministerial judicial functions that are time sensitive. Respondent was apparently angered over the appeal and told the clerk to have the defendant file a motion, but that "if I have to set bail, I'll put him in jail." The clerk, aware of the time-sensitivity of the appeal, brought the matter to the attention of the Chief Judge of the District Court. The Chief Judge attempted to speak with Respondent at the lunch break but Respondent was not available. The Chief Judge ended up handling the matter in order to ensure that the defendant's rights were not violated.

35. Respondent's reaction to a Deputy Court Clerk's refusal to back date a filing and the exchange with the Court on the record also gives rise to questions of judicial fitness. Details of this exchange include:

- a. On July 28, 2014, another court clerk gave the Deputy Court Clerk a memorandum at approximately 9:20 a.m. The clerk indicated that the memorandum had been filed the previous Friday, July 25, 2014, by a prosecutor. During a break, a sheriff brought the memorandum to the Respondent while he was in chambers.
- b. The sheriff, however, came back to the Deputy Court Clerk and advised her that the Respondent wanted the date of receipt revised to reflect the current date of

July 28, 2014, and not that it was received on July 25, 2014. The Deputy Court Clerk refused to alter the document.

- c. In open court, when the case was called, the Respondent advised the prosecutor that he hadn't received the paperwork and thus continued the matter. After the Respondent had called the next case, he asked the Deputy Court Clerk if she had something to say to him.
- d. The Deputy Court Clerk stated, on the record, that the memoranda had been filed the prior Friday and forwarded to the Respondent on Monday morning. The Deputy Court Clerk further stated that the Respondent returned the memoranda to her asking her to place Monday's date on the document. The Deputy Court Clerk refused to do so.
- e. Respondent immediately left the bench. After some time, a supervisor advised the Deputy Court Clerk that the Respondent did not want to work with her any longer.

F. PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE COURTROOM

- 36. Other than the Mental Health Calendar, the duties and responsibilities of a District Court judge are held in an open and public courtroom. Courtrooms remain open and accessible to the public, unless specific orders are entered under limited circumstances.
- 37. There is substantial evidence to support the conclusion that, on a number of occasions, Respondent has denied or chilled the rights of attorneys to open access to the courtroom. Examples of such denial of access include:

- a. Respondent inappropriately chastised a young female attorney for attending open court to monitor a matter for her firm. The attorney was assigned by her firm to monitor a motion to withdraw in a case on the District Court calendar. She sat in the jury box with other attorneys. As the docket progressed, the Judge stopped the call and singled her out, telling her to stand and tell him what she was doing in his courtroom. The attorney explained that she was just monitoring a matter for her firm. On the second call, the motion at issue was granted. The attorney noted this resolution in a notebook and left the courtroom. Respondent sent the courtroom sheriff after the female attorney to summon her to his chambers. With the clerk and sheriff present, the Respondent questioned whether or not she was an attorney. When she responded affirmatively, he advised her that he didn't appreciate being monitored and accused her of taking notes while watching him. The attorney explained that she was not monitoring the Respondent, but was monitoring the case. Respondent, however, told her that she was not supposed to do that and that she should have told him what she was doing beforehand. The attorney apologized and indicated she did not know that that was the protocol. Respondent, however, continued to berate her so much so that the clerk who was present indicated that it was awkward to be in attendance.
- b. Respondent instructed a court sheriff to prohibit at least one (1) prosecuting attorney from entering the courtroom after the start of the public calendar call. The prosecutor was made to wait outside the courtroom, at the door, while court was in process until 9:20 a.m. After the Respondent finished calling the

calendar, the Judge instructed the sheriff to let the prosecutor into the courtroom.

- c. In August 2014, on another occasion, a city solicitor arrived ten (10) minutes late for the 9:00 a.m. start time. On that same day, another solicitor arrived one (1) minute after the other prosecutor.
 - i. In open court, the Respondent proceeded to question each of the attorneys as to the reason for being late. In open court, the Judge found each attorney in contempt and fined each attorney \$250.
 - ii. After his second recess of the morning, the Respondent returned to the bench and had the courtroom cleared except for the two (2) prosecutors that he had sanctioned. He asked them again for their reason for being late. They both repeated their reasons and again apologized.
 - iii. After further admonishing both attorneys, Respondent lifted the contempt findings and rescinded the \$250 fines.
 - iv. Rather than render this ruling in open court like he had the contempt finding, the Respondent cleared the courtroom and rescinded the contempt finding in a closed courtroom. The Respondent subsequently allowed everyone else back into the courtroom but made no further mention of the sanctions against the attorneys.
 - v. The public was not made aware that Respondent had rescinded the contempt finding.

- d. A female public defender was excluded by Respondent from a courtroom meeting held between prosecutors and Respondent. The public defender refused to leave the courtroom until she was advised why she would not be welcome at a meeting that the Respondent was holding with prosecutors. Respondent informed the public defender that he intended on chastising the prosecutors and did not want her to hear the dialogue. Prosecutors confirmed that a meeting was held but they reported that they were not chastised. Instead, the meeting concerned the issue of the municipal prosecutors representing private clients in defense matters.

G. FAILURE TO UNDERSTAND BASIC LEGAL CONCEPTS

38. There is substantial evidence that Respondent has difficulty grasping basic legal concepts. Examples include:
- a. Attorneys on the Mental Health Calendar have had to take extra time with Respondent before the call of the Mental Health Calendar to prepare him for the cases. The attorneys find that they do not need to take such efforts with the other judges.
 - b. The transcript from a decision in a DUI matter reflects several questionable legal statements by the Respondent. The transcript involved the Respondent's decision on criminal charges against a defendant for driving under the influence. The defendant refused to take a field sobriety test and did not take a breathalyzer. The prosecution proceeded to trial based on the observations of two (2) witnesses - the

police officer and another individual who had alerted the police to the defendant's erratic driving. Respondent used a circumstantial inference example, of waking in the morning to find snow on the ground, to explain the "beyond a reasonable doubt" standard he was applying in the case. Respondent stated that the example of waking in the morning to find snow on the ground, when there had been none there the night before, demonstrated beyond a reasonable doubt because you could "reasonably conclude" that it was snowing the night before even if you didn't see it yourself. The Respondent went on to erroneously state that the reasonable doubt standard is "where one is **fairly certain** that the . . . that the alleged incident took place." (Emphasis added.) There are also other questionable legal statements within this decision, including when the Respondent addressed the weight to afford the lay witness' testimony. The Respondent inexplicably first analogized the weight of this testimony to a chain of custody analysis but then stated that he was thinking of it "in terms of proximity, under the doctrine of proximity."

- c. Respondent has repeatedly displayed an inability to identify which type of sentence amounted to a conviction. For example, Respondent repeatedly refused to recognize that a straight probation sentence is not a conviction and that a fine attached to a plea deal, as opposed to a contribution to the Victim's Contribution Fund, amounts to a conviction.
- d. Respondent has made repeated errors in addressing bail for criminal defendants. For example, on one occasion Respondent attempted to hold a criminal defendant without bail on a bailable offense. Respondent had to be told by the court clerk

about the error. On another occasion, Respondent neglected to hold a criminal defendant without bail for repeated violations while on existing bail.

H. IMPAIRMENT OF FAIR REPRESENTATION

39. There is substantial evidence that Respondent violated the Code of Judicial Conduct by impairing litigants' right of fair representation. This impairment occurred in the case of Warwick v. Arnold and the interim oral order Respondent entered prohibiting all part-time solicitors from defending private clients in criminal cases during the pendency of a *sua sponte* motion by Respondent raising a perceived conflict of interest.
40. This Complaint was brought to the attention of the Commission by an Attorney. The attorney is a part-time solicitor for the City of Cranston who had attempted to appear before Respondent on behalf of Mr. Arnold, to defend a criminal action brought by the City of Warwick.
41. Respondent *sua sponte* directed the attorney to show cause why he should not be disqualified from representing Mr. Arnold due to a conflict of interest.
42. In a meeting with all solicitors, Respondent informed the prosecutors that until he ruled on the pending *sua sponte* motion in Arnold, the solicitors would not be able to represent private clients from charges being lodged by a municipality that held its prosecutions in the same courtroom.
43. Respondent, however, took over three (3) months to rule in Arnold. In that timeframe, the part-time solicitor lost a significant amount of work by being unable to defend private clients.

44. Respondent's ultimate resolution of the perceived conflict in Arnold had not only been suggested by another solicitor immediately after it was raised but is also clearly identified in the Rules of Professional Conduct as the preferred resolution.

J. Substantial Evidence Respondent Attempted to Interfere with the Investigation

45. While the preliminary investigation was underway, Respondent contacted attorneys and clerks and asked them to make favorable comments to the investigator about him. Some of the witnesses felt uncomfortable or intimidated by the Judge's contact.

IV. VIOLATIONS OF RULES OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

The above referenced conduct violates the Code of Judicial Conduct:

- A. Canon 2(A);
- B. Canon 3(B)(2);
- C. Canon 3(B)(4);
- D. Canon 3(B)(6);
- E. Canon 3(B)(8)(f);
- F. Canon 3(B)(8)(g);
- G. Canon 3(B)(9) ;
- H. Canon 3(B)(13).

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

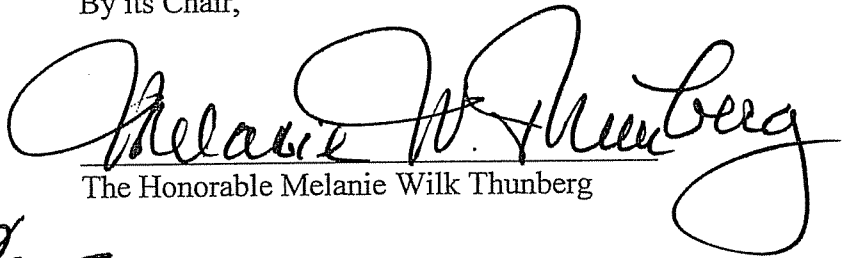
You have twenty (20) days from the date of service of this Notice to respond. Failure to deny the allegations will be deemed an admission.

A public hearing will be held at the Noel Judicial Complex, 222 Quaker Lane, Warwick, Rhode Island, beginning at 10:00 AM on Saturday, February 6, 2016.

You may retain counsel to represent you, confront witnesses and present evidence on your behalf.

Please note that this Notice and your Answer are public documents, except as the Rules of the Commission provide otherwise.


Commission on Judicial Tenure & Discipline,
By its Chair,


The Honorable Melanie Wilk Thunberg

Date:

Dec. 7th, 2015

Commission on Judicial Tenure & Discipline,
By its Attorney,


Marc DeSisto, Esq.

Date:

12/7/15